

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012833

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS STATUS REPORT

1. THERE FOLLOWS STATUS REPORT ON NICOSIA SITUATION PRE-  
PARED IN DEPARTMENT AT 1400 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME JANUARY  
18:

2. DEMONSTRATORS ATTACK EMBASSY: AS THE FIRST PLANELOAD OF  
TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES WAS EVACUATED THIS MORNING FROM  
THE BRITISH BASE AT AKROTIRI, 2000-3000 GREEK CYPRIOT DEMON-  
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 012833

STRATORS MOVED AGAINST BRITISH AND AMERICAN BUILDINGS IN

NICOSIA. THE DEMONSTRATORS ENTERED AND BURNED TWO FLOORS OF ONE WING OF US EMBASSY NICOSIA AND DESTROYED SEVERAL VEHICLES WHILE THE CYPRIOT POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD LOOKED ON. AFTER EMBASSY MARINE GUARDS EXPENDED SOME 60 TEAR GAS CANISTERS, ALL US PERSONNEL MOVED INTO THE EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER. MOST EMBASSY CLASSIFIED FILES WERE DESTROYED AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. WITH UNFYCIP ASSISTANCE, OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MOVED US DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL TO A SAFE AREA. OUR STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WILL REMAIN EITHER AT THE HILTON HOTEL, OR IN THE EMBASSY WHEN WORKING, AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

3. CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE REINFORCEMENTS LATER ARRIVED AT THE EMBASSY AND THE CROWD DISPERSED. THE SITUATION IS PRESENTLY QUIET, THOUGH LOCAL SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO STAND BY.

4. US PROTEST AND CYPRIOT RESPONSE: UPON LEARNING OF THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY, THE US GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED THE GRAVEST CONCERN TO THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT IN BOTH NICOSIA AND WASHINGTON, AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE EXPECT THE GOC TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO US CITIZENS AND PROPERTY. THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOC HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THE EMBASSY INCIDENT AND ASSURED US INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO CYPRIOT SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT OUR EMBASSY UNTIL CURRENT TENSIONS SUBSIDE.

5. ANALYSIS/PROGNOSIS: SINCE THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE WELL PREPARED AND ACTED PURPOSEFULLY THROUGHOUT AND SINCE CYPRIOT SECURITY ORGANS CLEARLY HAD ADVANCE WORD OF THE DEMONSTRATION, WE CONCLUDE THAT IT WAS EITHER INSPIRED OR TACITLY CONDONED BY SOME ELEMENTS IN THE GOC. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT FURTHER LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS, POTENTIALLY NASTIER THAN THE ONE TODAY, ARE PLANNED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 20.

6. TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES: ON JANUARY 18 ABOUT 500 TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE EVACUATED FROM THE AKROTIRI SBA. THE BRITISH HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING OPEN THE 10-MILE ROAD BETWEEN THE REFUGEE AREA AND THE AIRFIELD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 012833

7. US EVACUATION PLANS: AS A CONTINGENCY MEASURE, EMBASSY NICOSIA HAS UPDATED ITS EVACUATION PLANS.

TASK GROUP 60.1 (AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA AND ACCOMPANYING SHIPS) WILL ARRIVE AT A POSITION SOUTHEAST OF CRETE, APPROXIMATELY 300 MILES WEST OF CYPRUS, AT 1:00 AM EST ON JANUARY 19. THE SARATOGA CARRIES HELICOPTERS WITH

A TOTAL PASSENGER CAPACITY OF 56. THERE ARE 38 USG EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS IN NICOSIA AND THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT FEWER THAN 50 PRIVATE AMERICANS WOULD REQUEST EVACUATION. KISSINGER

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